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ABSTRACT

This booklet presents the Written Response part of the English 30 Grade 12 Diploma examination. After instructions for students, the booklet presents the first part of the examination in which students respond to Patricia Keeney's poem "Swimming Alone," which addresses the complexities of risk-taking. The booklet then presents the second part of the examination in which students examine the consequence of the individual response to risk-taking based on the literature they have studied. The booklet provides students with suggested times for completing the examination and space for planning and drafting their responses. (RS)

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ED 407 672

January 1997

English 30

Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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January 1997

English 30 Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments:

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

  Suggested time
  approximately 1/2 hour

  Value
  30% of the Part A mark

  . . . Page 2

- **Literature Composition Assignment**

  Suggested time
  approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours

  Value
  70% of the Part A mark

  . . . Page 10

Time: 2 1/2 hours. You may take an additional 1/2 hour to complete the examination.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and drafting and for your finished work. Please write your finished work in blue or black ink. Feel free to make changes and corrections.
- You may use the following references:
  - –a print or electronic dictionary (English language and/or translation)
  - –a thesaurus
  - –an authorized writing handbook
- Budget your time carefully; the suggested time for each part is only a guideline for you.
- Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Reading Selection

1. Because the Readers' Response to Literature Assignment will prepare you for the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.

2. Read "Swimming Alone" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

SWIMMING ALONE

They warn you not to
dangerous they say
what if you get in trouble
what if
in the early morning when pellets of rain
rip the mist like whispered rumour, loud
in the dark fir circling
what if
the majesty of one
deliberately fracturing glass
moving down through pools to make
a footprint on mud that's swallowed whole
slipping behind the raft and out of sight
breathing under the whirled pearl smoke
brooding and dreaming, what if

one becomes enough
or meets another single creature
ploughing through this lake
also swimming alone
for the first time since childhood
in cunning furtive spasms
until the strokes are long and steady
what if we two angry isolates
touching souls together
ignoring all the prohibitions, expectations
swimming especially in lightning

Continued

white nudes between each sizzling shaft
and always at night, when the sky falls down
and we push through fuming stars
barely missing the moon's pale hiss
what if we two, wrinkled and cold and buoyant
never come out of the lake

swimming alone is for the brave and desperate

Patricia Keeney
Canadian poet

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment
(Suggested time: approximately 1/2 hour)

The poem "Swimming Alone" by Patricia Keeney suggests the complex elements involved in risk-taking.

What does the poem "Swimming Alone" convey to you about the factors involved in risk-taking? Support your response with reference to specific details from the poem.

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

FINISHED WORK

There is additional space for Finished Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

FINISHED WORK

There is additional space for Finished Work on page 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

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Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

FINISHED WORK

Literature Composition Assignment
(Suggested time: approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours)

Literature often portrays the individual confronting the unknown—either stepping back from the brink of risk, hesitating, or plunging in.

> Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines the consequence of the individual response to risk-taking. **What idea does the author develop regarding risk-taking?** Develop your essay by providing specific supporting details from the literature that you choose to discuss.

Guidelines for Writing

- **Choose** your selection from relevant short stories, novels, plays, poems, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must discuss literature **other than** the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea regarding risk-taking. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are responding to the requirements of this assignment as you develop and support your controlling idea.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly and coherently developed.

Literature Composition Assignment

INITIAL PLANNING

Space is provided here for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title of literature that you have chosen _____

_____

_____

_____

Your controlling idea or thesis statement _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

Literature Composition Assignment

FINISHED WORK

There is additional space for Finished Work on odd-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

Literature Composition Assignment

FINISHED WORK

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

Literature Composition Assignment

FINISHED WORK

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Literature Composition Assignment

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Credit

Patricia Keeney. "Swimming Alone" from *The Globe and Mail*, August 3, 1966. Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with CanCopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency.)

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January 1997

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